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## The Mazar Municipality and Citizens Kick Off the District 5 Trash Collection Project

**Citizens and municipal officials took part in an initial clean-up campaign in District 5 of Mazar-e-Sharif.**



**“...Everyone should play their role—the Mullah, the media, teachers—in engaging the people in municipal services, in particular trash collection.”**

*—a Mazar-e-Sharif  
Service Delivery  
Advisory Group  
member*

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On January 27, 2012, the Mazar-e-Sharif Municipality, with the technical support of RU-N, began an initial clean-up campaign for the District 5 trash collection project. This project was selected by the Service Delivery Advisory Group (SDAG). It involves door-to-door trash collection across District 5 where more than 8,000 families reside. The initial phase of the project will last for three months, during which USAID will provide seed money through RU-N. The Municipality has committed to sustaining the project at the end of the three-month period using revenue collected from *Safayi* (service) taxes.

Several days before the start of the initial clean-up campaign, the Municipality and the RU-N team developed flyers containing information regarding the project and a message from the Mayor encouraging citizens to participate in the initial clean up.

Karim, a municipal loader operator stated “this is a good campaign, I remember participating in several clean-up campaigns, but we never cleaned the pile near Isteqlal High School entirely. This pile has been here for years, and each time it was partially cleaned. But this time it was completely cleaned.”

Dr. Hamdil, a resident of District 5 and Deputy Head of the Mazar Elders’ Council, stated that it is necessary to promote people’s engagement in municipal services, in particular trash collection. “I have a background in medicine and I know trash creates a lot of problems—it is not only about appearance. I have talked to people in the past and now about how this project is ongoing. I will continue to talk to my neighborhood to encourage people to help the Municipality with these services. Everyone should play their role—the Mullah, the media, teachers—in engaging the people in municipal services, in particular trash collection.”

During initial clean up, trucks full of trash from District 5 moved out of the city to the designated dumping site.

The campaign lasted for three days and people in different communities of District 5 are being informed through flyers and by word-of-mouth—mainly through community leaders and Imams from local mosques.